

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

A1 ~~Fig. 6 illustrates~~ Figs. 6A through 6D illustrate various methods of error concealment;

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 14, line 17 and ending on page 15, line 17 with the following amended paragraphs:

A2 This can be explained with reference to ~~Fig. 6 which presents~~ Figs. 6A through 6D which present a comparison of the disclosed method with other, conventional methods. A normal, error-free audio transmission is represented in the ~~top graph~~ graph of Fig. 6A by a first beat-to-beat interval waveform 181 and a second beat-to-beat waveform 183. The first waveform 181 includes a first beat 191 and the audio information up to a second beat 193. Similarly, the second waveform 183 includes the second beat 193 and the audio information up to a third beat 195.

Consider an audio data loss of the second waveform 183, occurring between time τ_1 and time τ_2 , an interval approximately 520 msec in duration (i.e., approximately forty MP3 audio data frames). Because most conventional error-concealment methods are not intended to deal with errors greater than an audio frame length used in the applied transfer protocol in duration, the conventional error concealment method will not produce satisfactory results. One conventional approach, for example, is to substitute a muted waveform 185 (Fig. 6B) for the second waveform 183, as shown in the next graph. Unfortunately, this waveform will be objectionable to a listener as there is an abrupt transition from the first waveform 181 to the muted waveform 185, and the second beat 193 is missing.

In another conventional approach, shown in the ~~underlying graph~~ graph of Fig. 6C, an audio data frame 195 occurring just before time τ_1 is repeatedly copied and added to fill the interval τ_1 to τ_2 , resulting in a monotonic waveform 187. This configuration will also be objectionable to a listener as there is little if any musical content in the monotonic waveform 187, and the second beat 193 is also missing.

A2
In accordance with the method of the present invention, a replacement waveform 189 including a replacement beat 197, is copied from the first beat 191 and the first waveform 181, and is substituted for the missing audio segment 185 in the time interval τ_1 to τ_2 , as shown in the ~~bottom graph~~ graph of Fig. 6D. As can be appreciated by one skilled in the relevant art, the music portion represented by the waveform 189 with the replacement beat 197 is more closely representative of the original waveform 183 and second beat 193 than is the error-concealment waveform 187.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

A3
In an alternative embodiment, the memory storage capacity of the circular FIFO buffer 50 can be reduced by storing only selected audio frames rather than every audio frame in the incoming stream. In a first example, shown in Fig. 12, two audio frames 301 and ~~302~~ 303 at strong beat 1 are stored in the circular FIFO 50. Additionally, two audio frames 305 and 307 at offbeat 2 are stored, two audio frames 309 and 311 at strong beat 3 are stored, and two audio frames 313 and 315 at offbeat 4 are stored in the circular FIFO 50. Note that none of the audio

frames occurring between audio frames 303 and 305, between audio frames 307 and 309, and between audio frames 311 and 313 are stored. Accordingly, when a defective audio frame 323 (frame 0) is identified, the defective frame 323 can be replaced by audio frame 301 since the defective audio frame 323 occurs at a beat 327. In a conventional error concealment method, the defective audio frame 323 could be replaced by either a previous audio frame 321 (frame -1) or by a subsequent audio frame 325 (frame +1).
